

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF FIRE CONTROL  
MEETING, JUNE 18, 2014  
9:30 AM  
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE  
110 SMOKEY BEAR BLVD  
CONCORD, NH 03305

Attendees: Allan Clark, Floyd Hayes, Norman Skantze, J. William Degnan, John Ela, Martin Michaelis, Dan Andrus and Steven Freitas.

Absent: Richard Heath, William Mead and Brian Boudreau

Meeting Called to Order at 9:36 am by Martin Michaelis.

Steven Freitas our newest member was introduced to the board. He is a licensed professional engineer and worked with Les Cartier for several years. He's had 20 years in process engineering in various positions. He has been with his current employer 16 years.

A motion was made by Dan Andrus to approve March 19, 2014 meeting minutes. It was seconded by Floyd Hayes. All approved.

### **Report of State Fire Marshal**

Bill Degnan introduced Ron Anstey who works in the Fire Marshal's office as plans reviewer, variances and trouble shooting. He will be speaking about wind farms later in the meeting.

Rob Farley has retired as Deputy and will be working in the Fire Marshal's office part-time.

Eric Berube, Danielle Cole and Tom Schutzius completed the Fire Fighter 1 training.

Stacey Dubois will complete Fire Fighter 1 in a few weeks. This training is crucial for their safety. This training is in conjunction with Police Department training program.

The Fire Marshal's office has two new investigators. They are Sean Plumer and Matthew Wilmot. Sean Plumer completed Fire Fighter 2 training, works with Milford Fire Department and was a detective for Milford Police Department.

Matt Wilmot was an intern in the Fire Marshal's office years ago. He was working in security for the New Hampshire State Hospital. Both are currently going through in house training.

### **Investigative News**

Incident which occurred in **Manchester** deemed a double homicide is still ongoing.

**Seabrook** had a fatal being called an untimely death. This is not believed to be intentionally set.

**Danville** had a fatal of an elderly woman. This investigation is still ongoing.

In **Swanzy** an elderly man was using inflammable liquid and lit a cigarette which caused a fire. Eric Berube from the Fire Marshal's Office assisted in the investigation along with the Swanzy Fire Department. Fire was determined to be accidental.

The town of **Milton** had a grease fire in a kitchen and a woman was burned trying to carry the burning pan outside.

In **Keene** a Keene State College employee was electrocuted when he came across a downed power line. It appears he thought it was a dead line but came in contact with the line and was electrocuted.

In **Brentwood** there was a domestic disturbance call which resulted in a police officer being shot and the resident caused a fire in the home and it exploded and the fire quickly advanced throughout the duplex. This occurred the same week the Fire Marshal's Office had Haz Mat training as well as several fire calls which the Fire Marshal's Office assisted in investigations. The ATF was called in to help

with the Brentwood investigation during this busy week and they were very helpful.

There was a fatal in **Deerfield**. The individual was living in a shed and the cause was deemed careless smoking.

**Unity** had a fire in a single family home. There was gunpowder and ammo on the premise. This is still under investigation.

**Newport** had four fires in one night. This is still under investigation.

**Fitzwilliam** had a fire involving a juvenile. Juvenile Fire Prevention Services was notified and they are working with the child.

Fireworks stores are going through their yearly inspections. Training sessions regarding fireworks are available for all fire departments across the state. If any stores are selling products not legal in New Hampshire all were asked to call the Fire Marshal's office and ask for Chris Wyman.

Recently there was a report from someone in New Hampshire that fireworks were being transported from Manchester to Connecticut in a large vehicle which brought concern to local authorities and the vehicle was located in Connecticut. The fireworks were going to be sold in a local convenience store there, which is illegal.

An updated list of acceptable fireworks in New Hampshire will be coming out soon.

Public Education has been busy. They completed their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Calendar Contest which was well attended and the ice cream social after was a hit! The calendars will be available soon and board members will be given a copy at the next meeting.

There was an event in Thornton for children and their parents held at the Firehouse Engine No 21 Museum. Jack Cullen is the owner and was a reporter for many years and had an interest in the fire departments in Boston and became a regular visitor and built this museum so families could see what a station looked like in the big city. Mary MacCaffrie read to the children and copies of Children Are No Match to Fires were available to all the children there. Sparky was a big hit and a good time was had by all.

Copies of Children Are No Match to Fires have been given to Child and Family Services, libraries in schools, towns and day care centers. The Fire Marshal's goal is to get copies into hospital waiting rooms.

The Public Education division is gathering information for the first Annual Fire Marshal's report which should be completed and available by the end of summer.

Healthy Homes has been active in getting the word out about carbon monoxide poisoning, fire safety, etc. This organization has been involved in getting this information out to the legislatures.

There was a hazmat incident in Epping. It was concerning "swamp gas" due to melting of snow and the gas that was released from that incident.

There was a gas truck rollover on Route 101 in which the tank was held intact and fortunately the tanks were mostly empty. Some gas was left in the tanks so the tanks would keep its form.

There was a hazmat incident in Epping involving the making and selling of fake marijuana. They did seize 2,200 pounds of marijuana at the scene. Those who work with the hazmat division are at risk each time they respond to a scene due to unknown substances found in the area. Les Cartier and Chris Wyman were recognized for their assistance by the New England Narcotic Enforcement Officers' Association.

Tramway and Amusement Rides department are very busy inspecting rides throughout the state. They inspected a new roller coaster ride at Story Land made of wood. It was found to be very well constructed.

Cranmore Mountain had quad lifts that failed inspection. There were four others located throughout the state that also failed inspection.

The Groton wind farm is currently going through the process of adding the suppression systems on the windmills. The Fire Marshal's office has been involved with this project for some time. The cost of adding these suppressions runs anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per unit. Another wind farm is scheduled in Berlin in the near future.

Plymouth State College and Dartmouth College are now using CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) trailers. Compression stations are now being built in Pembroke and

Concord. This conversion for the colleges can save up to six figures per year for heating expenses. This form of fuel storage is being closely watched by the Fire Marshal's office and will recommend code updates when needed. The suppliers are responsible for the training of users and what to do in case of an emergency.

## **Old Business**

Fire code 2012 life safety has not raised any issues and no appeals have been made for changes. Fire Marshal's office is working diligently to work with the building control board on codes. The 2015 version should be available by the end of summer.

The Fire Marshal contacted Roger Berkowitz who is the owner of Legal Seafood's regarding a carbon monoxide incident at one of his restaurants in another state where one of the employees died due to a carbon monoxide leak. Mr. Berkowitz installed carbon monoxide detectors in all of his restaurants and had one of them activate in the kitchen area and later found a faulty unit. He is very involved as a proponent of carbon monoxide detectors.

There were no new updates on legislative reports. There is a study regarding cancer occurrences in fire fighters. A formal report should be forth coming.

NASFM has a conference coming up in Florida from July 28-30. The Fire Marshal will be stepping down as president but will be on a study group for carbon monoxide standards and how to reduce carbon monoxide emissions from generators.

There still seems to be an issue with rail cars coming into New England carrying propane gas without odorant. Studies are showing this to be more common and there needs to be a plan to move forward to design a plan to control these deliveries.

## **New Business**

There is a need for education for fire fighters throughout the state. There are classes for Fire Fighter I available online. This will be especially helpful to those in the remote areas of the state. Any questions on what is available for training should contact Deb at the Fire Academy. This is also a good place to start if there are specific suggestions of types of courses that should be covered at the academy.

The investigators that cover each town in New Hampshire are available for training opportunities and each fire department is encouraged to get to know the investigators for this and other needs they may have. Allan Clark will be looking into the possibility of funding available for training and classes for fire departments.

Ideas for classes were discussed and a two to three hour class with interaction via web is a possibility. Another idea was to use others at the Fire Marshal's office as resources. One valuable resource is Ron Anstey who assists with inspections of construction at schools, hospitals and state buildings. He has a wealth of knowledge and would be a great contact to help fire departments for any of these inspections.

The fire in Peterborough at the Ball Bearing manufacturer was a result of a dirty drum in the manufacturing area. This case is now closed.

### **Good of the order**

The board is still looking for someone to fill the position as the gas representative for the board. Anyone with suggestions should email Director Degnan of any possible candidates.

A motion was made by Dan Andrus to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Allan Clark. All in favor and adjourned at 11:40am.

Next meeting will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Engine 21 Museum in Thornton, NH.

